

December 26, 1917

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JANUARY 2, 1918.

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New Series. —PART 82

THE ILLUSTRATED WAR NEWS

9^d



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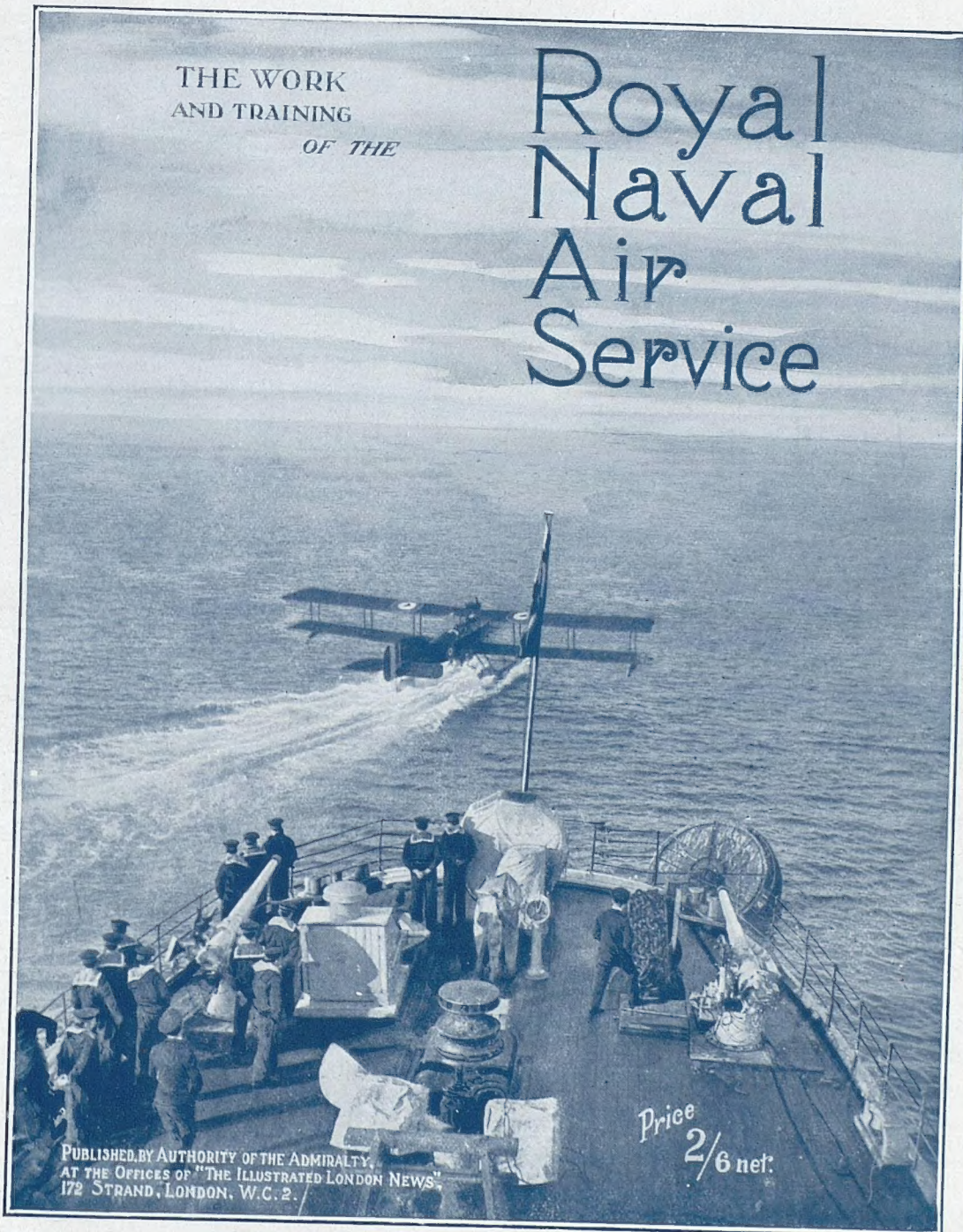
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Dec. 26, 1917

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THE SEA: AN ITALIAN PATROL.
Photograph.

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Dominion.—LONDON: DEC. 20, 1917

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS AND SKETCH, LTD.,
me, W.C. 2.—WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26, 1917.

The Illustrated War News, Jan. 2, 1918.—Part 82, New Series.

The Illustrated War News



Belgian Official Photograph.

SERVING AS COVER AND AS AN OBSERVATION-POST: A BELGIAN LOOK-OUT ON WATCH
OVER THE UPPER EDGE OF A LIGHT-RAILWAY CAMOUFLAGE SCREEN.

THE GREAT WAR.

THE SNOW-BOUND FRONT—GREAT AERIAL ACTIVITY—REPORTED NARROW ESCAPE OF THE KAISER—TRENCH INCIDENTS—THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF ITALY.

ON a snow-bound Western Front, the war conditions of the last days of 1917 made for no very remarkable activity. The threatened great onset still delayed, and although it was well known that billets in Belgium had never been so full of German soldiers, both the British and the French took the situation coolly. For several days, beyond patrol encounters and the usual note upon the frost and snow, Sir Douglas Haig's messages were brief, and of the "nothing of special interest to report" order. Raids continued up and down the line, with a capture of a few prisoners and machine-guns; but otherwise the infantry actions were on no great scale. During the whole period, however, the enemy's artillery was never idle. The point of heaviest gun-fire

was, first, east of Ypres, particularly at Passchendaele. On the 22nd the activity had become "great" near Gheluvelt and Poelcapelle. The same afternoon, under cover of a heavy barrage, a local attack developed in some strength against our positions near the Ypres-Staden railway, and the Germans succeeded in

driving in our advanced posts for a short distance on a front of about 700 yards. On the morning of the 23rd, a raid on one of our posts east of Epehy

cost us a few men missing. Another party, attempting to raid our lines near the Messines road, was caught by our fire and driven off before

reaching its objective. North of Poelcapelle, the guns on both sides were engaged in a lively duel. The report over Christmas was merely of enemy gun-fire near Vimy, Havrincourt, and east of Ypres. Another snowfall gave the troops an old-fashioned white Yuletide.

A remarkable feature of the period here summarised was the work of the airmen. The Australian squadron especially distinguished itself, bringing down an enemy

machine and dispersing others. On one of the early days, seven German aeroplanes were brought down by ours, one was shot down by anti-aircraft guns, and another by infantry fire. Extensive bombing-raids were carried out on consecutive days on the enemy bases and railway stations. On Christmas Eve, Mannheim, the great centre of chemical works, was heavily and most effectively bombed by a British air squadron. One ton of explosives was dropped, and

many hits were recorded. The Kaiser was said to have passed through the railway station an hour before it was wrecked. Mists occasionally



THE WINTRY WESTERN FRONT: MISTLETOE.

British Official Photograph.



THE WINTRY WESTERN FRONT: A CHRISTMAS PUDDING IN THE TRENCHES.

British Official Photograph.

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PORTED NARROW ESCAPE SPIRIT OF ITALY.

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TRENCHES.

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interfered with these operations, but that did not stop the aerial bombing and fighting, although it impeded for the time photography and observation. Even at night, our fliers, undeterred by the ground mists, ascended and paid their respects to enemy aerodromes. Our air-men grow increasingly troublesome to the enemy, and it is no doubt due to their persistence and success, on a rising scale of operations, that the December moon so far saw little in aeroplane-attacks upon our coasts. After the affair of the 18th, there was no attempt until the evening of the 22nd. The raiders approached the Kentish coast just after 6 p.m. One aeroplane was forced to descend in flames close to the sea-shore, and the crew of three men was captured

repetition. They mean much to those engaged, and are essential to the general scheme; but a condensed history, tracing the course of this war from week to week in the briefest form, cannot, with due regard to proportion, take special note of every little fight; although, in truth, some of them are far from little, and produce deeds of epic valour, which may never meet with the recognition they deserve. The famous old height of Hartmannsweilerkopf has come into view again as the scene of renewed bombardments by the artilleries of both sides. A strong attack in Lorraine cost the enemy many dead. Gun-fire became livelier than usual near Caurières Wood, in the Verdun area. Following the artillery preparation of the previous two days, the Germans



THE WINTRY WESTERN FRONT: MARCHING THROUGH A WOOD AFTER A HEAVY FALL OF SNOW.

British Official Photograph.

alive. Some three hours later a second attack was made, and the raiders dropped some bombs on Thanet, without causing the least damage to life or property. They got no further inland. The barrage was apparently too much for them.

The British official night report for the 27th contained nothing specially noteworthy. There had been some artillery activity north of St. Quentin, near Arras and Messines, and east of Ypres. Between snowstorms, aviation work had been continued, to harry the enemy's lines with machine-gun fire and bomb his billets.

As with the British, so with our Allies on the Western Front, the record of the day's work has been that of routine. It is an unceasing tale of raids and bombardments on local sectors or outlying posts. To specify the localities of these minor affairs would seem now the vainest

tried a very big raid, and got into some French advanced elements. A fierce hand-to-hand fight ensued, and in the end the enemy was completely ejected. His losses were not small. Towards Christmas, patrols became lively between the Oise and the Aisne, and at the eastern end of that front a raid on Juvincourt was neatly repulsed. Again the enemy suffered severely. Elsewhere, in Champagne, at Verdun, and in Lorraine, similar tactics were similarly foiled. Before Verdun, in particular, the enemy seemed to be testing the front at various points as though he were contemplating some larger movement; but such attacks as he launched under heavy fire, and after preparation, were entirely without advantage to him. Twice he attempted the Caurières Wood—that scene of many combats—only to melt away, under the French fire, before

close quarters were reached. At Bezonsaux the German guns opened with excessive vigour, but were borne down and silenced by the batteries of our Allies. Little or no ground is gained or lost in these days. It does not matter. The French wall stands firm; the French guns take

of the fiercest intensity was concentrated on the Allies, without being able to shake their hold. This was encouraging for the Italians' prospects in the Monte Grappa region. On the western sector of the Asiago plateau, however, things had not gone quite so well. On the west of the

Brenta, the Monte di Val Bella and Col del Rosso had been lost, and the enemy claimed 9000 prisoners. Courad gave due credit to the Italians' "most stubborn resistance." The Austrians, weary of hardship and bloodshed, are being encouraged by their officers with hopes of the good things in store when they reach the plains. The enemy leaders were anxious to make a supreme effort before the snow should fall with its full winter heaviness. Hence these fierce onslaughts. On Christmas Day the struggle was renewed at dawn with all its former intensity. Our Allies did not retake the lost positions, but they prevented any further hostile advance. And with Christmas came the long-delayed snow in full measure, blocking the passes. The afternoon of the 25th saw the fighting dying away. Re-



THE WINTRY WESTERN FRONT: A MOTOR-CYCLIST IN DIFFICULTIES.
British Official Photograph.

ports on the 27th spoke of the enemy's increasing difficulties of transport, owing to the weather. British and Italian air units and anti-aircraft corps carried out an important operation

deadly toll of every effort which the enemy makes to purchase dearly a yard or two of trench. The drama of the new Thermopylae takes longer to play than the old; but it is the same glorious barring of the pass against the barbarian. Months ago, almost years ago, the Poilu, far harder pressed than he is now, cried, "On ne passera pas!" Nor have they, nor will they. France has resolved, and she will see to it. Despite diligent enemy claims to big hauls of prisoners on the Italian front, the line stands little altered from the Trentino to the mouth of the Piave. Another attack on the Col dell' Orso was driven back, and a renewed attempt to carry Monte Solarolo met with no better success than that recorded last week. On the Old Piave, the enemy kept up his attempts to cross, but these were all frustrated. About this time, the enemy reports became noteworthy on account of their particular mention of Monte Asolone, east of the Brenta, where "repeated Italian attacks" were said to have failed. The failure seems to have been very advantageous to the Italians. It was true that some days before, Asolone, a height of 5000 feet, eight miles distant from Bassano, had been lost to the Austro-Germans, but on the 20th the Italians, coming on with fine energy, wrested from the enemy a great portion of his gains. Fire



THE WINTRY WESTERN FRONT: THE CHRISTMAS POST IS WELCOMED.
British Official Photograph.

at Treviso. Heavy fire and the enemy held, was the report from the Asiago Plateau. Signor Orlando, the Italian Premier, has added to the memorable utterances of the war. "Rather than yield an inch of our territory, we shall retreat to Sicily." There speaks the old spirit of the Roman Senate after Cannae.

LONDON: DEC. 29. 1917.



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was concentrated on the able to shake their hold. for the Italians' prospects region. On the western plateau, however, things had ell. On the west of the the Monte di Val Bella del Rosso had been lost, the enemy claimed 9000 pri- Courad gave due credit Italians' "most stubborn ace." The Austrians, weary dship and bloodshed, are ncouraged by their officers pps of the good things in hen they reach the plains. emy leaders were anxious ce a supreme effort before ow should fall with its full heaviness. Hence these onslaughts. On Christmas he struggle was renewed yn with all its former inten- Our Allies did not retake st positions, but they pre- any further hostile ad- And with Christmas came ong-delayed snow in full re, blocking the passes. fternoon of the 25th saw ghting dying away. Re- poked of the enemy's in- f transport, owing to the Italian air units and anti- out an important operation



CHRISTMAS POST IS WELCOMED.
[Official Photograph.]

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THE ILLUSTRATED WAR NEWS.

[Part 82
New Series]—5

Winter on the Western front: from "Blighty."



A SEASONABLE PRESENT: A BRITISH "YOUNG BILL" WITH A CHRISTMAS PUDDING FROM HOME.

The "compliments" of the season have given place again this year to something very much less conventional and very much more real, and, in the case of our men at the Front, very much more significant. A plum-pudding, in ordinary times, is a prosaic enough thing, but in the conditions of war-time it is rich in significance and sure of a welcome for the sake of its kindly sender. What a web of fantasy and

friendship Charles Dickens would have spun around such an offering in such conditions! To the most prosaic it cannot fail to suggest the thoughts of home which it must have conjured up in the minds of those who received, in time of war, such tokens of remembrance from their friends across the sea. It illustrates, too, the cheery contentment of our soldiers in the discharge of their duty.—[Official Photograph.]



With the British Army on the Western front

in France



WHILE FIGHTING IS GOING ON AHEAD: A CAVALRY FORCE RESTING

Only comparatively small bodies of our cavalry in France have had opportunities of mounted work on the battlefield. Squadrons and troops, as detachments, have had chances of getting at some of the enemy, and have done brilliantly; but, ever since the cavalry actions of the autumn of 1914, the majority of horse regiments have had to wait their hour. Meanwhile,

REAR DURING ACTION

in camps a short training and the readiness, if called

the Western front

in France: Near a Battlefield during Action.



HEAD: A CAVALRY FORCE RESTING
ies of mounted work on the battlefield.
e enemy, and have done brilliantly; but,
s have had to wait their hour. Meanwhile,

REAR DURING ACTION; AT AN ADVANCED DRESSING-STATION DURING ACTION.

in camps a short way behind the infantry trench-lines, they are kept in a state of the highest efficiency, due to continuous training and the practice of battle evolutions. A massed force is seen in the upper illustration, during a temporary rest, in readiness, if called on. Note in the lower illustration German prisoners carrying stretchers with wounded.—[Official Photographs.]



Across a Snow-Covered Battlefield



ON A WINTER DAY'S JOB TO ROPE IN GROUND GAINED WITH AN

If we do not always hear of it in communiqués, Sir Douglas Haig and the correspondents have mentioned, on occasion, that everywhere on the Western Front a certain amount of "nibbling" into the enemy's lines, to recall Marshal Joffre's historic phrase, is ever proceeding. It may be only a few yards of gain in places, yet, wherever it is, the ground has to be promptly

near Arras

ENTANGLEMENT:

"wired"—roped
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Covered Battlefield



TO ROPE IN GROUND GAINED WITH
ondents have mentioned, on occasion, that
s lines, to recall Marshal Joffre's historic
ever it is, the ground has to be promptly

near Arras: Off to Secure a "Nibble."



ENTANGLEMENT: A "WIRING" SQUAD PASSING A WESTERN FRONT NAVAL GUN.

"wired"—roped in, so to speak, with barbed-wire entanglements. A "wiring" squad, with picks and shovels, and corkscrew-ended steel uprights to support the network of wire, as well as rifles and kit, is seen filing across a snow-covered battlefield and passing one of the big Western Front naval guns, such as those that fought the Dogger Bank battle.—[Official Photograph.]



Ruin Greater than Centuries have Wrought on Ancient Rome or



"STILL THE CAPITAL OF THE BATTLEFIELDS, HOLDING IN ITS POOR STRICKEN BONES THE
German guns have reduced the glorious architecture of Ypres to mere stumps of crumbling masonry rising here and there
amid heaps of rubbish. To-day it is the mere corpse of a murdered city. In a few months the modern Vandals have
caused there greater ruin than nearly twenty centuries, with their vicissitudes of war and change, have wrought upon the

SOUL OF ALL THE
ancient monuments
round Ypres, still the
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Wrought on Ancient Rome or Athens: The Murdered City of Ypres.



ING IN ITS POOR STRICKEN BONES TH
crumbling masonry rising here and there
a few months the modern Vandals have
war and change, have wrought upon the

SOUL OF ALL THIS TRAGEDY": YPRES, ONCE THE PRIDE OF FLANDERS, AS IT IS TO-DAY.

ancient monuments of Athens or of Rome. In a despatch of November 7, from Mr. Philip Gibbs, we read: "In all this country round Ypres, still the capital of the battlefields, holding in its poor stricken bones the soul of all this tragedy, and still shelled by an enemy who even now will not let its dust alone, there is nothing but destruction and the engines of destruction."—[Official Photos.]

A Wintry Morning with the Grand fleet.



SNOW ON DECK, ICY WIND, AND A MISTY HORIZON: NORTH SEA DREADNOUGHTS IN LINE AHEAD.

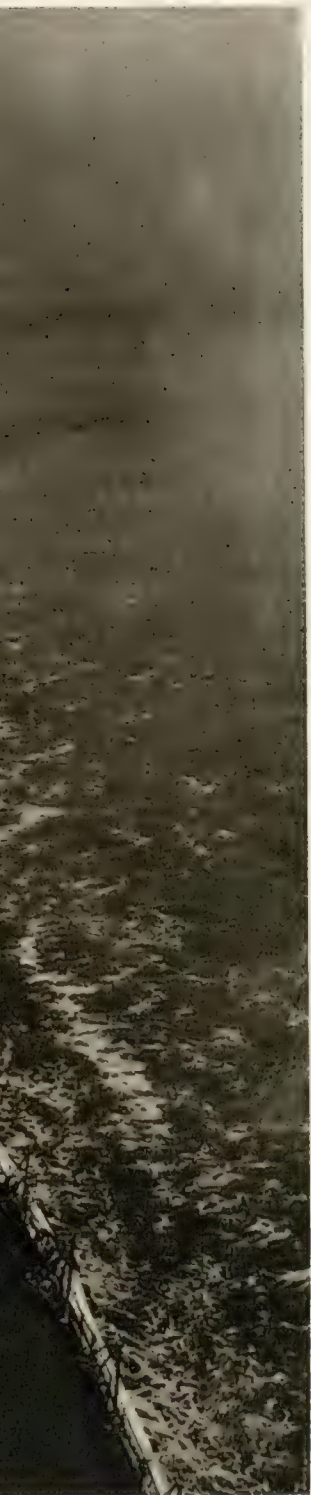
Christmas and the New Year make no difference in war time at sea with the Grand Fleet. Some ships, perhaps, of the battle-ship squadrons here and there, on what may for convenience be termed "inner guard" duty at certain base-ports, manage to observe festivities of the season, according to naval tradition; and others, temporarily on relief, were able to give their crews Christmas and New Year's leave to

their homes by watches; but the battle fleet in general kept watch and ward as usual—part at sea, part within instant call by wireless. A squadron on patrol in line-ahead battle-formation is shown above: snow on decks, an icy wind blowing, and the grey mists of Northern waters in winter along the horizon. Come sun, come storm, the motto of the Navy is "Ready!"—[Photo. by Newspaper Illustrations.]

SUCCESSORS

The Admiral
Rosslyn Erskine
cession to Sir
Rosslyn Wemyss
especially at
landing in G

leet.



THOUGHTS IN LINE AHEAD.

battle fleet in general kept watch and at within instant call by wireless. A battle-formation is shown above: wing, and the grey mists of Northern n. Come sun, come storm, the motto photo. by Newspaper Illustrations.]



The New first Sea Lord of the Admiralty.



SUCCESSOR TO SIR JOHN JELlicoe, AS FIRST SEA LORD: VICE-ADMIRAL SIR ROSSLYN WEMYSS.

The Admiralty announced, on December 27, that Vice-Admiral Sir Rosslyn Erskine Wemyss had been appointed First Sea Lord, in succession to Sir John Jellicoe, who had been raised to the Peerage. Sir Rosslyn Wemyss has greatly distinguished himself during the war, especially at the Dardanelles, where he commanded a squadron at the landing in Gallipoli, and also took part in the evacuation. Of his

work there, and that of the other naval officers concerned, General Sir Charles Monro said in his despatch that it "remained throughout this anxious period at that standard of accuracy and professional ability which is beyond the power of criticism and cavil." Vice-Admiral Wemyss commanded the "Ophir" in 1901, when that ship carried the King and Queen on their Colonial tour.—[Photo, by Ernest Brooks.]

ROMANCES OF THE REGIMENTS: LXXXII.—THE 10TH LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT.

.THEIR LUCK AT LUCKNOW.

THE 10th (later the North Lincolnshire, now the Lincolnshire) Regiment, which formed a unit of the column which approached Lucknow from the east, played a very notable part in the taking of that city. After performing various duties in the preliminary operations, the 10th found its real opportunity when it was ordered to relieve the 93rd at the Begum Serai, which the Highlanders had captured the day before. The scene which presented itself to the troops on entering the palace remained ineffaceably fixed in their memory. The troops moved out from camp on the afternoon of March 12, 1858, in very oppressive weather, rendered doubly uncomfortable by an impalpable dust, which hung in a haze over the landscape. As they drew near, the air was continuously shaken by the sound of the heavy guns of Peel's naval brigade, which were continually being advanced as they reduced obstacle after obstacle. Everywhere were signs of destruction and carnage, shot-riddled houses, dead Sepoys, smouldering ruins, and all the indescribable debris and litter of war.



IN MESOPOTAMIA: INDIANS BUILDING A RAILWAY LINE.

The speed with which such lines are made is really remarkable.

had meant to the Highlanders. The building had been fortified by a deep ditch, and with loop-holed breastworks of mud which filled up the verandahs of the palace. Only one entrance had been left open, and that was so narrow that no more than one man at a time could squeeze his way along it. This passage was continued for fifteen feet within the chief gateway, and the walls were loop-holed on each side. It had been a veritable death-trap, spouting musketry from every angle, and further commanded by Sepoy sharpshooters on the neighbouring roofs. How the Highlanders had won it at all was a marvel. They confessed to their friends of the 10th that they scarcely knew how they had succeeded. The ditch was piled with rebel dead, naked and mutilated, which the Sappers were busy covering over;

and, as Private Mulvaney says, "it was not the eye alone" that bore witness to the horrid aftermath of battle.

The courtyard, once a well-kept garden, was filled with soldiers, cannon, transport vehicles, bullocks, native camp-followers, and the usual

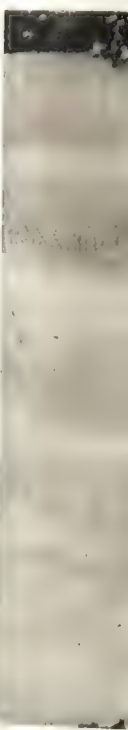


IN MESOPOTAMIA: A FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN SOMERSETS AND WIRELESS-SIGNALLERS.

On their arrival in the Begum Serai itself, the 10th were shown over the place by the 93rd, and they fully realised what the capture of the position

accessories of an army. Flower-beds were trampled out of recognition, ornamental vases lay smashed and overturned, and all the time, further beyond,

(Continued overleaf.)



DRAW

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COLNSHIRE REGIMENT.

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WIRELESS-SIGNALLERS.

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[Continued overleaf.]

On the Western front in December 1917.



DRAWING WATER IN THE BRITISH LINES: AT A WELL; AT AN ICE-BOUND STREAM.

Bitterly cold as have been the winter weeks that saw the Old Year merging into the New in the British Isles, the cold at this season is always many times more intense where our soldiers on the Western Front are fighting. There, deep, widespread snow and hard frost have prevailed, mantling the whole country in white and freezing every running stream and pond. To get at water at all, the thick ice has to be broken through.

The two photographs on this page, taken on the outskirts of a camp or cantonment close behind the battle-front, and within a walk of some of the trenches, typify what are the universal conditions under which campaigning has to be carried on for the necessities of daily life. As at other seasons of the year, the sources of the winter water-supply are under medical supervision, to ensure safety for drinking.—[Official Photo.]

rose curling smoke from burning houses and the never-ceasing rattle of musketry. The 10th now entered the palace itself, and found it wrecked beyond any wreckage they had hitherto seen. Of the once beautiful and elaborate furniture, nothing remained recognisable except a broken couch and table. The floors were strewn with fragments of costly mirrors, candelabras, and other ornaments; pictures had been torn to shreds, and the spoils of wardrobes mingled with the general confusion. What could not be carried off had been destroyed. The 10th saw enough abomination and desolation to last them a lifetime.

Thereupon they entered upon a new phase of the advance, with the Begum Serai as base. Outram's next objective was the Kaisar Bagh, which the Sepoys—knowing well that the British would follow up their advantage hot-foot—had defended with formidable batteries, while every house on the line of approach was loopholed. To attempt to carry streets thus prepared would have meant disaster. It was therefore decided to proceed by means of saps, made through the walls from house to house. The line of these was marked out by a member of the force who knew Lucknow well. Under his direction, the troops worked their way towards the main obstacle which

and shake their nerve. Gradually, securing every new point as it was won, the attacking force crept onward. At last, when only one courtyard separated them from the mosque, one of Peel's 68-pounders was brought up. An opening was made in the wall with picks and crowbars, and when the hole was just big enough the muzzle of



BAGHDAD UNDER BRITISH OCCUPATION: THE BERLIN-BAGHDAD RAILWAY STATION, SHOWING THE DOORS OF THE BOOKING OFFICE AND WAITING-ROOMS

the piece was put in, and heaped round with sand-bags, to afford cover against the storm of rebel musketry directed at the aperture. Then the great gun spoke, and in a shower of dust and fragments a sufficient breach crumbled away. The passage to the Imaum Bara lay open. With a cheer and a rush, the 10th poured through and entered the courtyard. The Sepoys did not wait to receive them. Thereupon the 10th, masters of the courtyard, swarmed through the front gate and tried to take the rebel guns from the rear. They were now harassed by snipers, but the best shots kept down the enemy fire.

The mosque was taken, more quickly than the most sanguine leader could have hoped for. Only two days had been required for the job. Then the 10th found themselves in luck's way again. Sir Henry Havelock discovered, by a fortunate accident, that the Kaisar Bagh could be entered from the Imaum Bara group of buildings. Havelock led

the way in person. Captain Amnesty, of the 10th, with a few men of his own company, and Major Brasyer, with some of his Sikhs, rushed far ahead of the main body, and, entering the Kaisar Bagh through a small opening, engaged and held the whole rebel force for a good twenty minutes before reinforcements came up.



BAGHDAD UNDER BRITISH OCCUPATION: KHALIL PASHA STREET, WHICH IS NOW CALLED NEW STREET.

divided them from the Kaisar Bagh. This was a mosque known as the Imaum Bara, to be carefully distinguished from the Great Imaum Bara, much nearer the centre of the city. While the British, in the cover of the houses, fought their way through the walls, the mosque was heavily shelled to keep down the defenders' fire



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Jan. 2, 1918

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THE BERLIN-BAGHDAD RAILWAY
WORKING OFFICE AND WAITING-ROOMS

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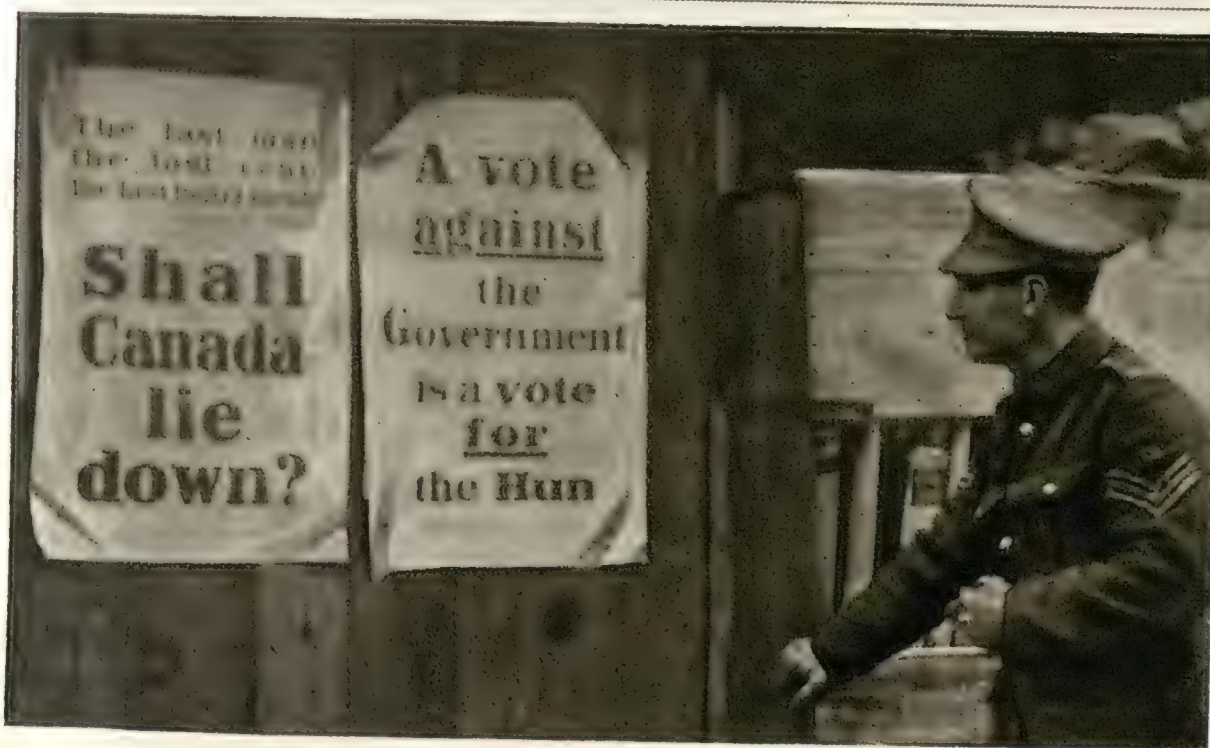
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Jan. 2, 1918

THE ILLUSTRATED WAR NEWS.

[Part 82
New Series]—17

The Canadian General Election.



VOTING AT THE FRONT: LUMBERMEN AT A POLLING-STATION; CAMP ELECTION LITERATURE.

All Canadian soldiers on this side of the Atlantic, both those on the West Front, in camps, or in the trenches before the enemy, and those in England on duty or on leave, had opportunities provided for them by the authorities for recording their votes by ballot in the orthodox way in the recent Canadian General Election. Every unit was included in the unique election, but, owing to circumstances, the

counting of the soldiers' votes could not take place at the same time as the voting in the electoral divisions at home. That, of course, gave a majority for the Government in power, Sir R. Borden's Ministry. In the upper illustrations, Canadian lumbermen at the Front are seen at a polling booth; in the lower, typical election posters at the front. The patriotic loyalty of the men at the Front is obviously unshakable.

With the British Army on the Italian front.



NEAR THE ENEMY : BARRICADING A ROAD BY WHICH ATTACK WAS POSSIBLE ; SCOTS AND ITALIANS.

To hold up the enemy on the two Italian fronts—the attack from the eastward across the Piave, and the attack from the Trentino, on the Piave-Brenta-Asiago northern front—the whole chain of sectors facing the enemy has been fortified in detail by every means that the local situations offered. Villages and farms and isolated buildings were entrenched and turned into "forts" and blockhouses, while all

roads leading from the direction of the enemy were blocked with barricades across. The barricading of one such road in Venetia, in a sector defended by part of the British forces in Italy, is shown in progress in the upper illustration. The lower shows a fraternisation incident, happily to be witnessed everywhere on the Italian front.

[British Official Photos.]

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POSSIBLE; SCOTS AND ITALIANS.

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of the British forces in Italy, is shown in
ration. The lower shows a fraternisation in-
trenched everywhere on the Italian front.

With the British Army on the Italian front.



EN ROUTE: AN R.E. UNIT OUT LAYING A TELEPHONE LINE; SCOTS, ITALIANS, AND A HEAVY GUN.

In the upper illustration one of our Royal Engineer Telegraph Battalion
wagons, laden with its "plant" and service gear, is seen by the road-
side on one of the tree-lined highways of Venetia while at work laying
a telephone line. They are using the poplar trees which form avenues
along the roads for running their wire along in place of telegraph-posts.
In the foreground are seen, with the group of military, some of the

cocked-hatted Italian field-service gendarmes, or carabinieri, who
police the lines of communication and the Italian camps and canton-
ments, as a regular branch of the army service, organised in battalions
like line regiments. The lower illustration shows Italian soldiers
and men of a Scots corps with a heavy gun on its travelling campaign
gun-carriage.—[British Official Photographs.]

With the British Army, under General Plumer,



PROOF OF THE WELL-EQUIPPED CONDITION IN WHICH THE BRITISH CONTINGENT HAS BEEN SENT

An informative example is shown in this illustration of the completeness of the equipment in every department of the army which has been sent, under General Plumer, to co-operate with the Italians in the defence of their country against the Austro-German irruption. Some of our airmen, as official despatches from the Italian front have recorded, were the first of the British contingent

to be in action w
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Army, under General Plumer, Co-operating with the Italians.



ION IN WHICH THE BRITISH CONTINGENT HAS BEEN SENT TO ITALY: AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN MOTOR-LORRY UNIT.

equipment in every department of the army which
ence of their country against the Austro-German
recorded, were the first of the British contingent
to be in action with the enemy, and proved their mettle by bringing down enemy planes in the first encounter, with no loss on
our side. The *terrain* of the Venetian plain, level and flat, and with good roads all over the districts near the Piave, is very
favourable for anti-aircraft gun motor-lorries to utilise their mobility with advantage.—[Italian Official Photograph.]

"Snow has fallen along the whole front."



THE FOURTH WAR WINTER ON THE BRITISH FRONT: A SNOWED-UP CAR; A DESPATCH-RIDER.

"Snow has fallen along the whole front"—such was the laconic intimation, in a recent communiqué from the British Headquarters in France, that wintry conditions once more prevail in the trenches and over all the country that forms the zone of war on the Western Front. Now, for the fourth year in succession, winter is adding its hardships to the perils of campaigning, and the sympathy of those at home goes out

more than ever to the men who endure everything so bravely. Snow may be for the moment picturesque, and temporarily cover with its white mantle ugly sights of the battlefield, but the worst of it is that when a thaw comes, the result is again a sea of mud and trenches filled with icy slush, the worst enemy of the soldier. "Deadly" cold takes on a new significance in such conditions.—[Official Photographs.]

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conditions.—[Official Photographs.]

Jan. 2, 1918

THE ILLUSTRATED WAR NEWS.

[Part 82
New Series]—23

A Diversion by General Snow.



WINTRY WEATHER ON THE BRITISH FRONT: SNOWY ROADS; A FAITHFUL FOUR-FOOTED "SENTRY."

The elements play their part in strategy, and human leaders have to reckon with the generalship of Wind and Rain, Frost and Snow, Thaw and Mud—the last-named most of all, for he is a persistent stickler, and, as it were, Nature's generalissimo, to whom the others are subordinate. Thus the white cohorts of General Snow are but the advance-guard to his overwhelming brown battalions. On the British front in the

West snow recently fell thick, and the photographs on this and other pages illustrate the resulting conditions. The progress of the transport up to the trenches was not made easier. The lower illustration shows an incident suggestive of Alpine warfare, and proving once more the fidelity of "the friend of man." "Generals January and February" were old-time nicknames for the worst war months.—[Official Photos.]



The Italian Line of Defences for

the Hold



AT VIDAR, ON THE PIAVE, WITH THE GERMANS OCCUPYING THE TOWN :

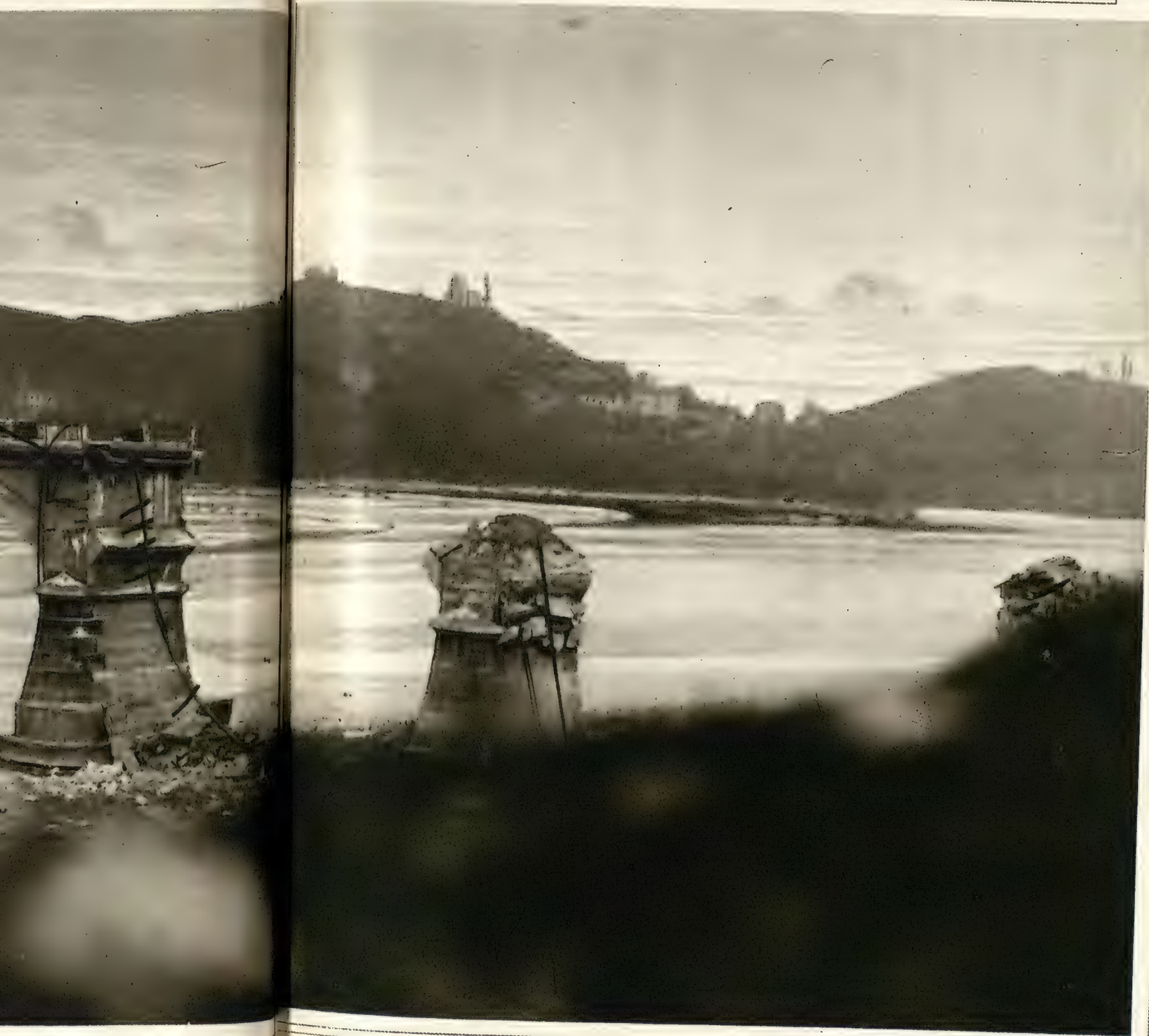
Vidar is a small town on the middle Piave, on the eastern, or enemy, side of the river, and situated about ten miles from Asolo. One of the main roads from the Isonzo crosses the Piave at Vidar, where the river is bordered on the east by the range of hills of moderate elevation seen across the river in the illustration. The Germans, states a note on the back of the

FROM THE ALLIED

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Line of Defences for

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GERMANS OCCUPYING THE TOWN :

the river, and situated about ten miles from
the river is bordered on the east by the
Germans, states a note on the back of the

FROM THE ALLIED TRENCHES ON THE NEAR BANK AND THE BLOWN-UP BRIDGE.

photograph, were in position at Vidar, houses of which are seen on the hill-slopes, when the photograph was taken. The view
is from the front-line trenches on the Allies' bank. The two spans of the bridge nearest the Italian side of the river, which
have disappeared, were blown up after the Italian rear-guard crossed in the retreat.—[British Official Photograph.]

THE NEW WARRIORS: XIV.—THE MANAGER.

I REALLY must bring an Adjutant in here. He is not strictly New, but he is determined; and it appears upon examination that he is one of the world's great workers, who in real, sturdy brain-application ranks in Category A of this scheme of articles.

I have often asked myself—What is an Adjutant? His position is curious, but apparently proud. He can be bad-tempered on even terms with Colonels, yet he is sometimes something less than a Lieutenant, and at most is never more than a Captain. He appears to dwell exclusively at H.Q.—but why? As a decoration he seems, at times, ill chosen; and his particular function does not, at first, meet the naked eye.

I asked Johnny exactly what an Adjutant was. He said, at once, that Adjutants were mainly

dinner and "Cheep" were off, as he had grave things to do. I thought I had better ask Hartley all about this Adjutanting. Hartley was very boot-face-gloomy about it. He said—

"If you see a young man prematurely broken by care, bent double under the burden of labours beyond the scope of three strong men; if you see a pale, earnest youth trying to bear up bravely in spite of an overwhelming sea of anxiety in triplicate—that is an Adjutant."

It seemed to me all very terrible and alarming, and I said so.

"I assure you it is all perfectly true," said Hartley. "I know—I am an Adjutant."

As far as one can see, the duties of an Adjutant have something of the flavour of an office boy, with the touches of (1) an impresario, (2) the



WITH THE ITALIAN NAVY: NAVAL GUNS ON A PONTOON.—[Italian Naval Official.]

carnivorous, and, on the whole, they existed for nothing save to lacerate subalterns. The Adjutant was the man who always thought of foot-and-kit inspections at the moment one was thinking of leave. Have a grand-aunt dying conveniently in the Revue area, and the Adjutant at once says, "Ah, yes; I'm putting your platoon for night operations to-morrow." Decide that you are going to spend the four days of leave (which are, you consider, obviously due to you because of the way you have conducted your bit of war) in a most idyllic manner, and the Adjutant marks you down for a Sanitary Course. Adjutants, says Johnny, are permanently soured; he had met a decent, kindly Adjutant only once, and then it was found the fellow had only six months to live, and was anxious to set by riches in another world, to which, as an Adjutant, he could otherwise scarcely hope to go.

I thought Johnny's opinion might be a little biased. Johnny is junior: I know only lately he had to wire to a mutual friend saying that the

manager of Selfridge's, and (3) a spice of a Justice of the Peace thrown in. It is perfectly true, as Johnny said, that he is there to curb and otherwise reduce to seemliness the regimental subalterns. He sees to these subalterns most thoroughly. He is their high priest of routine and discipline; through him are "passes" and the like granted, and by him are juniors sent off to the myriad and bewildering "courses" that are making this war complicated but deadly. It is through him that the all-highest of the regiment is approached, for he is the man who acts as communication between the humble and the Colonel, and to him all applications for anything should be addressed. He is all this, and several things else.

He also attends to the discipline of the regiment. He stage-manages and trains the battalion in all the arts of war, seeing that they learn it all in workmanlike fashion from "about turn—by numbers" to the latest bombing or sniping or gassing dodge. He is the Prefect of Studies of the battalion—under the Colonel. He draws up the

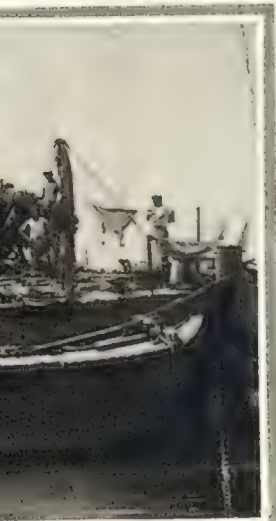
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[Naval Official.]

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Easterners and Westerners in the Snow.



ON THE BRITISH FRONT: ORIENTALS OF THE LABOUR CORPS; BRITISH OFFICERS SNOWBALLING.

We use the expression, 'Easterners and Westerners' above, not as applied to theories of high strategy, but merely in the geographical sense. The men seen in the upper photograph are clearing snow from the roads behind the British front in France. The information supplied with the photograph describes them as "native workers in a strange climate," but what their native climate may be is not stated.

It may be mentioned, however, that the Labour Corps employed in the British war-zone in the West includes representatives of many different races. Among them—to quote a recent article in the "Times"—are "British labourers, Chinese, Kaffirs, Indians, Egyptians, Fijians, German prisoners, and conscientious objectors, in the mixed multitude which digs, hauls, pushes, loads, and carries."—[Official Photos.]

schedule of training—under the Colonel. He works out the list of parades and courses—under the Colonel. He is the voice of the Colonel speaking to the groaning multitude that are being made vigorous and lethal for war. Orders for the Day,



KEEPING GUARD OVER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ALLIES OPERATING ON THE SALONIKA FRONT: OVERLOOKING THE ROADS AT SALONIKA PORT, FROM A FRENCH BATTLE-SHIP.—[French Official Photograph.]

which the Colonel so attractively sets out to guide the young recruits and the Old Contemptible on their hourly courses, have been drawn up by and signed by the Adjutant. And, not content with giving his orders for parades, he attends parades and makes them brisk and horrid with his eagle-like and penetrating eye.

When he has done all these little things, he has gently warmed to his real day's work. Keyed up by this little burst of semi-athletics, he tackles documents.

A regiment has twice as many documents as humanly possible, and one or two extra per man. It is part of the Adjutant's little avocation to handle and be cognisant of the lot. All regimental papers flutter naturally to him; the acute problem of Mrs. (Private) Blank's separation allowance, and Acting-Corporal Tung's railway-pass and warrant for the purpose of collecting a deserter, and several hundred others, are all scanned, noted, entered, and signed by him. He also writes minutes furiously about the supply of buff slips, machine-guns, bombs, and tent-pegs, while generally seeing that the regiment is kept up to a lively level of efficiency. He also considers and judges any "applications"—whether for special transfer to other branches of the Service, or

courses, or work, or anything. And all the time he is doing this not for himself, but for the Colonel.

He lords it over the Orderly Room by prescribed but second-hand right. The Colonel is quite frequently in the Orderly Room at critical moments, but it is a very strong-willed Colonel who can say more than "Ah—um—yes; do I sign here?" to his Adjutant. He sits by the Colonel, pretending to be of lesser clay, and he reads out the charges and makes his entries. Colonels sometimes make notes of cases, so as to show they are independent; but nobody is impressed. The Colonel says "This is a most grave case. I take a strong view of this. You will be summarily dealt with this time, my man, and let this be a lesson to you. The British Army without discipline—I am going to give you twenty-eight days cells . . ." All "crimes" and infringements are dealt with by the Adjutant; and he, too, is responsible for the courts-martial and all their stern but

undeviatingly fair justice; he is the authority on them; his amazing but inexplicable knowledge of Army law enables him to decide what point demands a court and what does not—his word is final.

The Adjutant, then, is the manager and general



ON A FRENCH BATTLE-SHIP WATCHING THE ROADS AT THE PORT OF SALONIKA: IN THE WIRELESS OPERATOR'S ROOM.—[French Official.]

utility man of the regiment. He is a furious worker, with no very great rewards for his labour—save in the effects. For, in many senses, the Adjutant is the Regiment; as good as he is, so good is the battalion.

W. DOUGLAS NEWTON.



IN GAZA

Timber is scarce anywhere else in that border on the side of wood for trenching in the Turks at Gaza. The blow th

Jan. 2, 1918

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THE ROADS AT THE PORT OF
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Jan. 2, 1918

THE ILLUSTRATED WAR NEWS.

[Part 92
New Series]—29

The Campaign in Palestine.



IN GAZA AS THE TURKS LEFT IT: HOUSES STRIPPED OF TIMBER FOR TRENCH-BUILDING.

Timber is scarce in most parts of Palestine, and perhaps more so than anywhere else in the southern regions of the country, in the districts that border on the Mediterranean coast-line. Our men felt the lack of wood for trench and dug-out props when making the lines to hold in the Turks at Gaza until the opportune moment arrived for dealing them the blow that General Allenby aimed so effectively. The same

lack of timber locally hampered the Turks in building their defences, but they made it good by treating the houses of Gaza as shown in the illustration, and as we found them. Everywhere the Turks stripped off the rafters and roof-beams and removed window-frames, floors, and doors for trench-supports. Only dome-roofed buildings, in which no wood was used, escaped.—[Official Photographs.]

With One of the French Western Front Armies.



MAKING AN AISNE CROSSING: FRENCH MILITARY ENGINEERS BUILDING A HEAVY-TRAFFIC PILE-BRIDGE.

Almost every river requires in war-time its own type of bridge, according to the width of the stream, the nature of the bottom, the strength of the current and its liability to apates or freshets. Shallow and hard-gravel-bottomed rivers require trestle-bridges. Wide rivers, flowing at not too great velocity, are crossed by pontoon-bridges or platforms laid on casks in emergencies. Deep rivers, mud-bottomed,

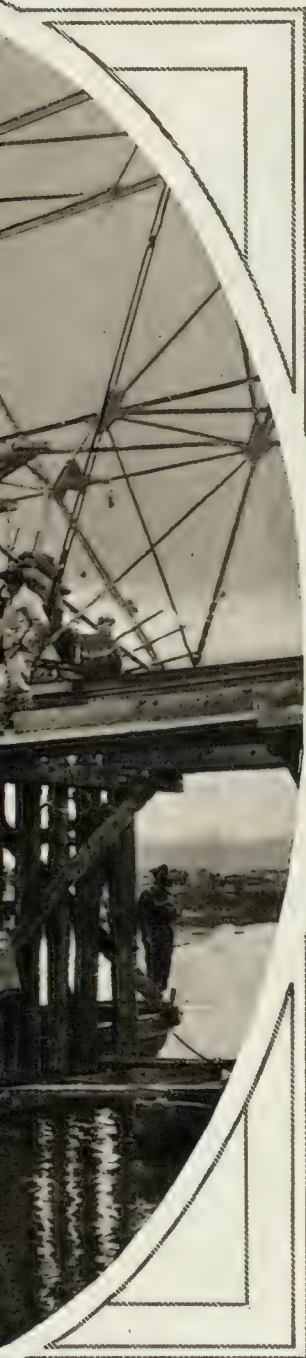
are crossed by pile-driven bridges, such as that shown in the making across the Aisne by French military engineers. The piers are formed with piles, or baulks of timber, forced in deep and strutted together, and the roadway formed by longitudinal beams with transverse upper planking, which provide the level surface or flooring over which the traffic of all arms takes its way.—[French Official Photograph.]

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Jan. 2, 1918

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A HEAVY-TRAFFIC PILE-BRIDGE.

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Jan. 2, 1918

THE ILLUSTRATED WAR NEWS.

[Part 82
New Series]—31

With the Belgian Army on the flanders front.



GOING TO THE TRENCHES: TAKING A LOAD OF "AERIAL TORPEDOES" BEHIND CAMOUFLAGE.

Sir Douglas Haig has sent this special telegram to the Belgian Com-
mander-in-Chief, congratulating the Belgian Army on its part in recent
fighting. "I wish to thank you most warmly, and also all ranks of
the Belgian Army, for the valuable help given so loyally and so graciously
and which I know will continue to be offered throughout our combined
operations." Concurrently the French General commanding the

group of armies on the western wing of the French front, sent the Bel-
gian Commander-in-Chief the following message: "I should be much
obliged if you would convey to the troops under your command my
heartly thanks, as well as my sincerest congratulations. They have
again given proof of the comradeship in arms which unites the Belgian
and French Armies."—[Belgian Official Photograph.]



Ready for "Artillery Activity": Some of the



A SIGHT TO INSPIRE THE INFANTRY: SOLDIERS INTERESTED IN A FOREST OF

"Artillery activity" continues to be mentioned frequently in reports from the British front, even when there are no movements of infantry on a large scale. Unlike the state of things in the early days of the war, our guns are now very numerous, and furnished with an ample supply of ammunition, enabling them to repay with interest any "artillery activity" on the

British



BIG SHELLS FOR

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British Army's Huge Supply of Gun Ammunition.



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BIG SHELLS FOR THE BRITISH ARTILLERY ON THE WESTERN FRONT IN FRANCE.

part of the enemy. Nothing is more encouraging to infantry than to feel that they have strong and efficient artillery support behind them, and it is not surprising that the troops should be pleased at such an imposing array of big shells as that seen in the above photograph. They know the guns cannot fail them, however prolonged the fighting.—[Official Photograph.]

WOMEN AND THE WAR.

A WAY on the wind-swept Surrey hills a woman is carrying on work as important as any of her sex have undertaken during the war. The war, with its consequent appalling wastage of human life, has brought home to us the necessity of preserving life for the future benefit of the State; and at Duxhurst, near Reigate, the babies colony started and maintained by Lady Henry Somerset is an object-lesson in child welfare that the State would do well to copy.

For years the wastage of child life in this country has gone on unchecked. It was sad that

Down at Duxhurst, Lady Henry Somerset is showing how even those children who have had a bad start in life can be won back to health and strength. Years ago she founded her village colony for the benefit of women victims of the drink habit. Years ago, too, she brought thither poor little morsels of humanity, the children of parents who had succumbed to the same vice.

Year after year the work went on until the war came, and with it further complications of existing difficulties, amongst them those surrounding the problem of the unmarried mother and her



HOW THEY PREPARED FOR CHRISTMAS: WOUNDED FROM CAMBRAI MAKING DECORATIONS IN A LONDON HOSPITAL.—[Photograph by L.N.A.]

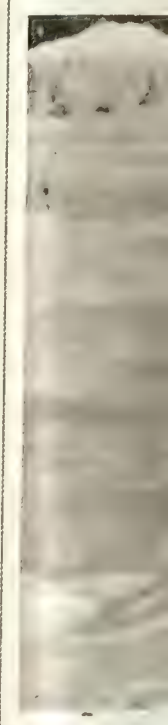
some ten babies died every hour; but it was nobody's business in particular. The advocate of child welfare was regarded as an amiable crank. If anyone thought about it at all, it was to point out that school authorities provided doctors to examine children, and that the mother was the person best fitted to look after her infant child. After that the subject was dismissed.

But wastage of life in the war has helped to bring realisation of the value of life. The future of the country depends on its citizens. It is essential that they should be healthy and strong. It is equally essential that their youth should be passed in decent conditions and surroundings if the country is to have the kind of population that is useful and not a drain on the national resources.

child. It is not so much a question of an increase in the number of illegitimate children, but rather of what to do with the infant itself. The war that has brought work for so many women has made it also more difficult for the young unmarried mother to find a guardian for her child whilst she works for its support. It is just here that Lady Henry Somerset has stepped in with her beneficent scheme.

The baby colony at Duxhurst is peopled mainly by the babies of unmarried mothers, or of those who have learnt, too late, the true character of their supposed husband. It is not, however, merely a dumping-ground for unwanted infants. Entirely to relieve a mother of her responsibility towards her child is no part of

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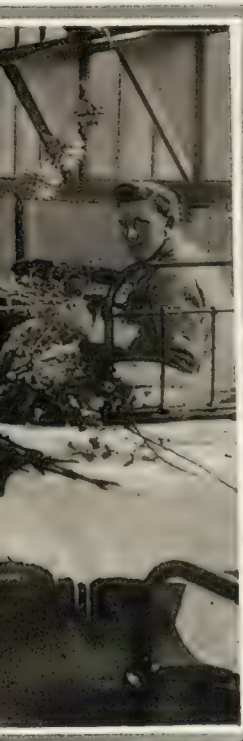
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Mascots on the British front.



"LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOG": MEN IN THE WEST PLAYING WITH THEIR PETS FROM HOME.

The unfailing friendship between our soldiers at the Front and the pet-animal mascot is very pleasantly illustrated in our photographs on this page. The first picture gives us a glimpse of the human side of war, and we see Jack, the mascot of a column in the West, who has stopped playing with one of our soldiers to watch the departure of a lorry, as it is his custom every night to take a trip to the Front through

the snow, to keep in touch with his friends. His fidelity and pluck are, in their own way, symbolic of his brave and loyal owners. The second shows one of our brave fellows playing with a kitten in the snow, as placidly as though wars and rumours of war were things very far away, and not to be allowed to interfere with the friendly colloquies between the mascot and her master.—[Official Photographs.]

Lady Henry's scheme. She is expected to pay five shillings a week towards the cost of maintenance; and there is a fine humanity about the decision that allows such mothers who wish to be near their children to take work in the home where they are cared for. Of course, the scheme costs money, but it only needs ten pounds a year to secure health and happiness for a baby at Duxhurst, and no one can deny that it's cheap at the price.

Not a few people regarded the advent of the woman officially in khaki with dread. Those who

Mary in khaki," but their numbers are decreasing. Perhaps the best testimony to the valuable work being done by the "Wacks" is the constant demand for more that arises from various departments that have already availed themselves of their services.

Not a little of the success that has attended the formation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps is due to the officers—or, to be more accurate, Administrators in charge of each unit, and the Deputy and Assistant Administrators, who between them are responsible for the general



WORKING FOR HOSPITALS AT HOME AND ABROAD: IN LADY SCLATER'S WORK-ROOMS.

The first parcel packed and sent to the British Expeditionary Force by Lady Sclater went on August 18, 1914. Working parties have continued ever since, and are now in being at 18, Pont Street. To show the extent of the work done, it may be noted that the attendances for the first six months of 1917 numbered 19,813, and over 174,000 articles were made and despatched in that time. In the group (from left to right) are: standing—Colonel the Hon. W. Curzon, Mrs. Erskine Loch, Mrs. Lewis Munro, and Mr. Belcher; sitting—the Hon. F. Heneage, Mrs. Sandham, Lady Sclater, Sir A. Fanshawe, K.C.I.E., and Mrs. Bassett. All these are members of the Committee.

Photograph by Langfieri.

had always held the "mannish" woman in abhorrence regarded the formation of the W.A.A.C. as a sign that their worst fears were to be realised. For some inexplicable reason, it was taken for granted that the khaki woman would be aggressively masculine—everything, in short, that no "nice" girl or woman would want to be.

Experience has shown that Eve in khaki differs very little from Eve in mufti, unless it be that the consciousness of wearing uniform has helped to develop a sense of responsibility in the mind of its wearer. There are still some women who object to the idea of their daughters joining up, on the ground that it "would be awful to see

welfare of the "men" they command. For it is upon the Administrator that, in the main, the comfort and well-being, and consequently the general efficiency, of her unit depends. It is she who "sorts out" the members of her company, suiting class to class without making any apparent distinction between individuals, and must at all times be ready to hear and adjust grievances, real or fancied. On her shoulders, too, falls the maintenance of that discipline essential in a large body of workers organised along military lines; and the success with which her efforts have been attended so far is the best possible proof of women's ability and willingness to work under members of their own sex.

CLAUDINE CLEVE.



AEROPLANE

Some of the cameras employed by the French air service at one of the fronts as has been seen, as in many

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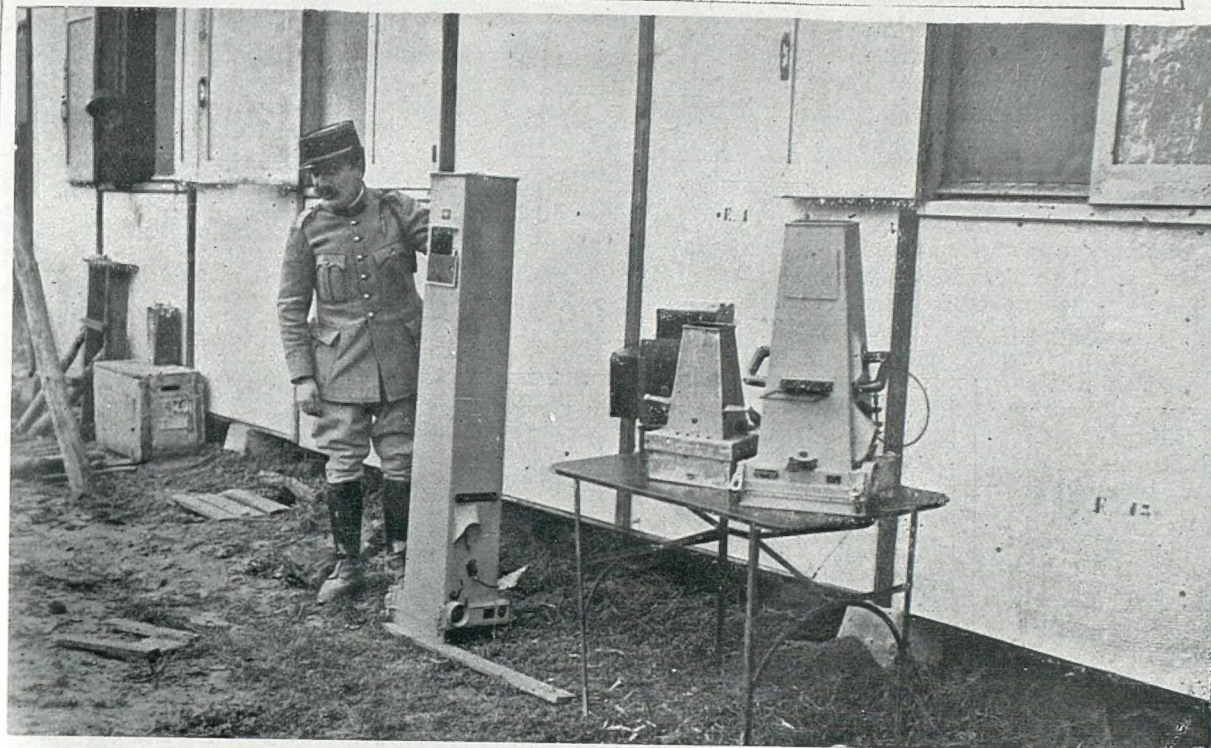


SCLATER'S WORK-ROOMS.

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CLAUDINE CLEVE.

On the french Western front.



AEROPLANE-CAMERAS AND RAILWAY LAYING: AT A FRENCH CAMP; PNEUMATIC "DRILLING."

Some of the various types and up-to-date patterns of photographic cameras employed by observers in reconnoitring aeroplanes of the French air service are seen in the upper photograph, which was taken at one of the French aviation centres on the Aisne front. The cameras, as has been described in newspapers, are fixed in various ways; some, as in many German planes, in the floor of the nacelle; others

at the sides or elsewhere on board. The mechanisms with certain of the cameras enable continuous photographs to be taken, so that connected pictures of German trench-sections over wide spaces of ground and along lengths of road on which columns of troops are moving can be photographed for the use of the Headquarters intelligence department, and pieced together.—[French Official Photographs.]

THE GREAT WAR.

**THE NEW FIRST SEA LORD—A DECREASE IN VESSELS SUNK—RUSSIAN CANARDS—
VON KUHLMANN'S GAME OF "SPOOF"—FURTHER PROGRESS IN PALESTINE.**

WHATEVER it may have meant to the initiated, the sudden change at the Admiralty came with a considerable shock to the general public. In the twinkling of an eye, Sir John Jellicoe ceased to be First Sea Lord, and in his place was set up Vice-Admiral Sir Rosslyn E. Wemyss, whose name, although distinguished, is not so much of a household word as to require no biographical note. In recognition of the retiring First Sea Lord's notable services and ability, his Majesty raised Sir John Jellicoe to the Peerage. For two years and four months Sir John commanded the Grand Fleet. It is thirteen months since he left the sea for the Admiralty. His successor's appointment has been hailed by one party with head-shakings, and by the other with acclamation as a chance at last for the

younger men. That is as may be. Admiral Wemyss is at least of years of discretion: he is fifty-three, just over the age at which the Hebrews say, "a man may give counsel." With his appointment, Fifehire has fairly "the guidin' o't," for the new Sea Chief, like the Land Chief,

Haig, comes from the ancient shire that is not a county, but a kingdom. Sir Rosslyn is the son of Mr. G. H. Wemyss, of Castle Wemyss. He was Commodore in 1898, and Captain in 1901. He commanded the *Ophir*, which took the King and Queen on their Colonial tour. His services during the landing in Gallipoli won warm recognition

from his superiors. Last August he was appointed Second Sea Lord. All is in his favour, and the public look with confidence to see the new régime deal with the submarine menace.

[Continued on page 39.]



IN ITALY: GENERAL GARIBALDI CHATTING WITH SOME TOMMIES.
British Official Photograph.



IN ITALY: ROYAL ENGINEERS LAYING TELEPHONE WIRES.—[*British Official Photograph.*]



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[Continued on page 30.]



[Official Photograph.]

War Work in England: Two Sorts.



CONTRASTS: WOMEN-MADE SHELLS—WAR MUSEUM EXHIBITS; FOR CHINESE WAR-WORKERS.

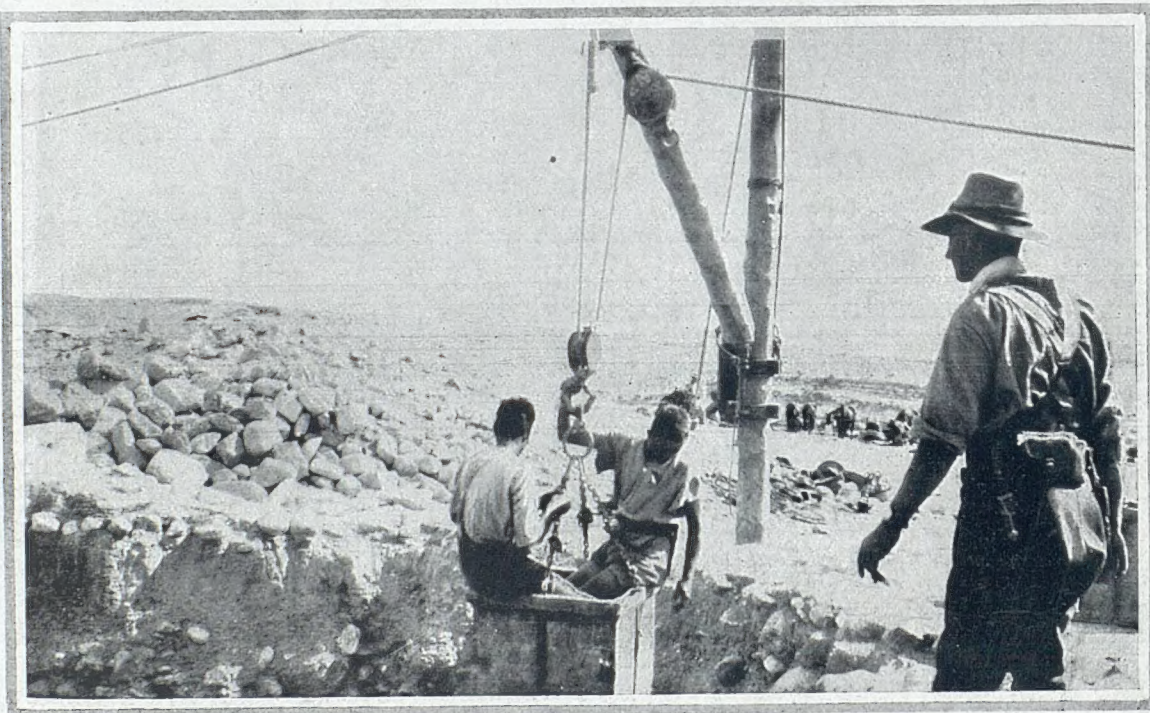
It was a happy thought to assemble the exhibits seen in the upper illustration. They are the "first fruits" of women munition-workers after the demand for high-explosive big shells came early in 1915. Eight- and six-inch shells are shown. It was a yet happier idea to arrange that these "testamurs" to woman's war work should be placed in the Imperial War Museum now being formed under official

auspices. In the lower illustration are seen Chinese gentlemen in London at the Chinese Legation packing cases of special New Year's gifts to be sent to the host of Chinese labourers on war work on various fronts, the gifts having been purchased by means of the generous, large money contributions which have been made by Chinese in England.—[Photos. by Harris's Picture Agency and L.N.A.]

Coincident with the change came the weekly tale of ships lost. The large vessels showed a decrease of two under the fourteen of both the previous weeks. Vessels under 1600 tons sunk showed also a decrease of two on the previous week, and six on the period before that, the figures being 7, 3, and 1. Again the curve is descending. We have learned to draw no rash conclusions from returns over a short period; but the decline is always gratifying, and a few zeros, or even a succession of small digits, would tell wonderfully upon a diagram calculated over months. The returns will be watched with renewed interest in the light of the official changes. Fishing vessels lost were given at one; and the number of craft of all tonnage unsuccessfully attacked stood at twelve; the former steady

But the conditions must concern all the belligerents, who must agree to "no annexations and no indemnities." As to the Russian demand that the people of the Central Powers shall vote on the question, this must be settled, say the Austro-Germans, constitutionally, by every State and its people independently. The difficulties in the way of such a vote are obvious, and the enemy's fair professions do not seem possible of speedy realisation. The Leninites, therefore, find themselves out of the frying-pan into the fire. The delegates, who have noted the peculiar reserve of the German offer, were to resume their deliberations at Warsaw.

From Palestine notable progress was reported, to El Jellil, eight miles north of Jaffa. A further push eastwards gave General Allenby Fejja,



IN PALESTINE: ANZAC ENGINEERS LOWERING MEN INTO AN 80-FT. WELL THAT THEY MIGHT CLEAN IT AND SO FACILITATE THE WATERING OF TROOPS.

from the previous term, and an increase of one from that immediately antecedent.

It would be unprofitable to give in detail the daily canards from Russia. All the stories of Bolshevik and anti-Bolshevik fighting, marching and counter-marching, and the discovery of mare's nest plots may be taken with many grains of salt. What is vital and tolerably trustworthy is the news of the peace negotiations. The attitude of the enemy, as was to be expected, resembles more or less the famous "spoof" tactics of Abdul Hamid in the middle 'nineties of last century. Not without reason did the Kaiser send the jester, von Kuhlmann, to conduct his side of the precious negotiations. After a reported hitch, it was announced that the Central Powers saw a way to immediate peace on the basis laid down by Lenin, Trotsky, and Company.

Mulebbis, and Rantieh, on the Turkish railway to the north. Successful fighting continued north of Jerusalem. Khel Bireh, four miles south-east of Rantieh, was also taken. Retreating Turkish troops were bombed, railways and rolling stock suffered great damage, and large quantities of booty fell into British hands.

A French success in Albania, and some desultory fighting north of Lake Doiran, is all the news from these outlying fronts, where the activity was in no way remarkable. As on other lines, the operations were hindered by a heavy snow-fall. It was reported that delegates from Enver Pasha had brought definite Turkish peace proposals to Berne, where the question of prisoners of war is being deliberated. Turkey, however, is scarcely so independent of her master as to take so decided a step.

LONDON: DEC. 29, 1917.